WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for procuring a manufactured component through a plurality of development stages, the method comprising:

providing a database for storing information related to procuring the manufactured component;

sharing the database among a plurality of relevant parties;

inputting data into the database by at least one of the relevant parties during a development stage of the manufactured component; and

modifying the database at each development stage if necessary.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the database holds data related to procurement of a plurality of components for a computer system.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

providing a pointer in the database, the pointer locating data related to at least one of the development stages.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the relevant parties include a manufacturer and at least one supplier.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the data includes:

production information;

testing information;

regulatory information; and

cost information.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the database is stored on a memory and includes:

a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the component;

5   a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for logging

6   information related to a plurality of manufacturing development stages;

7   and

8   a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality of

9   partitions;

10   wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and at least one outside vendor.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the database is accessible via one of an

2   internet connection to a network, an intranet connection to a network and both an

3   internet and intranet connection to a network.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 wherein the database is accessible via a

2   transportable memory.

1   9.   A database stored on a memory for use in manufacturing a component,

2   the database comprising:

3   a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the

4   component;

5   a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for logging

6   information related to a plurality of manufacturing development stages;

7   and

8   a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality of

9   partitions;

10   wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and at least one outside vendor.

1   10.   The database of claim 9 wherein the database is accessible via one of

2   an internet connection to a network, an intranet connection to a network, and both an

3   internet and intranet connection to a network.

1   11.   The database of claim 9 wherein the database is accessible via the

2   memory being transportable.

1   12.   The database of claim 9 wherein the database is capable of activating a

2   plurality of programs for viewing and editing the data, the plurality of programs

3   enabling the manufacturer and the at least one outside vendor to view and edit

4   identical data.

1   13.   The database of claim 12 wherein the plurality of programs are read-

2   only viewers.

1   14.   The database of claim 9 wherein the plurality of fields includes a

2   plurality of comment fields.

1   15.   The database of claim 9 wherein the plurality of partitions includes a

2   plurality of forms for inputting and viewing data.

1   16.   The database of claim 15 wherein the plurality of forms include at least

2   one of an evaluation form, a regulatory form, a reliability form, a design review form,

3   a manufacturability form, a documentation form, a system test form, a mechanical

4   form, a bench test form and a report form.

1   17.   A method of procuring a computer component comprising:

2   providing a database stored on a memory, the database including:

3   a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the

4   component;

5   a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for

6   logging information related to a plurality of manufacturing

7   development stages; and

8   a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality

9   of partitions, and

10   providing access to the database by a manufacturer and at least one outside

11   vendor.

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1   18.   The method of claim 17 wherein the database is accessible via one of

2   an internet connection to a network, an intranet connection to a network, and both an

3   internet and intranet connection to a network.

1   19.   The method of claim 17 wherein the database is contained in a

2   transportable memory.

1   20.   The method of claim 17 further comprising:

2   enabling the manufacturer and the at least one outside vendor to view identical

3   data via a plurality of programs for viewing and editing the data.

1   21.   The method of claim 20 wherein the plurality of programs are read-

2   only viewers.

1   22.   The method of claim 17 wherein the plurality of fields includes a

2   plurality of comment fields.

1   23.   The method of claim 17 wherein the plurality of partitions includes a

2   plurality of forms for inputting and viewing data.

1   24.   The method of claim 23 wherein the plurality of forms include at least

2   one of an evaluation form, a regulatory form, a reliability form, a design review form,

3   a manufacturability form, a documentation form, a system test form, a mechanical

4   form, a bench test form and a report form.

1   25.   The method of claim 17 wherein the plurality of partitions includes:

2   a second subset of the plurality of fields for inputting data related to test

3   results.

1   26.   A computer system comprising:

2   a processor;

3 system memory coupled to the processor;

4 a memory coupled to the processor, the memory including a database for use

5 in manufacturing a component, the database including:

6   a plurality of partitions, each partition relating to manufacturing the

7   component;

8   a plurality of fields within each partition, the plurality of fields for

9   logging information related to a plurality of manufacturing

10   development stages; and

11   a plurality of storage locations for storing data related to the plurality

12   of partitions;

13 wherein the database is accessible to a manufacturer and at least one outside

14   vendor.

1 27. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the database is accessible

2 via a computer network.

1 28 The computer system of claim 26 wherein the database is accessible

2 via the memory being transportable.

1 29. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the database includes a

2 plurality of programs for editing and viewing the data, the plurality of programs

3 enabling the manufacturer and the at least one outside vendor to view identical data.

1 30. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the plurality of viewers are

2 read-only viewers.

1 31. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the plurality of fields

2 includes a plurality of comment fields.

1 32. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the plurality of partitions

2 includes a plurality of forms for inputting and viewing data.

1   33.   The computer system of claim 32 wherein the plurality of forms
2   include at least one of an evaluation form, a regulatory form, a reliability form, a
3   design review form, a manufacturability form, a documentation form, a system test
4   form, a mechanical form, a bench test form and a report form.